REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the present application. Claims 4 and 7 have been amended to correct a translational or typographical error. No claims have been added or canceled. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 4, 7, 11 and 15 and dependent claims 2-3, 5-6, 8-10 and 12-14 stand in condition for allowance.

I. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Balfanz et al. (U.S. 2003/0149874 A1) in view of Puhl (U.S. Pat. No. 6,223,291 B1). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Balfanz discloses a system for authenticating communications between devices based on pre-authentication information transmitted over a network. Balfanz merely describes the authentication process of devices, Balfanz does not describe the process of *issuing* a certificate to a device. Specifically, a first device contains a first public key PK1 and a second device contains a second public key PK2 (paragraph [0048]). Over a location-limited channel, a first device sends its public key (PK1) to a second device and in response the second device sends its public key (PK2) to the first device (paragraph [0048]). Then over a wireless network, the first device sends its public key (PK1) to the second device and in response the second device sends its public key (PK2) to the first device (paragraph [0048]). A comparison is performed by the first device to determine if both of the public keys received from the second device are the same (paragraph [0048]).

The process of authentication in Balfanz is quite different from a process of creating or issuing a digital certificate. Therefore, Balfanz fails to disclose or suggest a data sending/receiving device that includes "a control section which performs a process of *issuing* the digital certificate for the new data sending/receiving device through the wired connection means" (claim 1). Similarly, Balfanz also fails to disclose or suggest a "control section *creates* the digital certificate for the new data sending/receiving device by using a device identifier specific to the new data sending/receiving device" (claim 1). Since Balfanz fails to disclose creating a digital certificate, Balfanz can not disclose a process that "sends the created digital certificate via the

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second communication section to the new data sending/receiving device through the wired connection means" (claim 1). In addition, Balfanz fails to disclose or suggest similar features of claims 4, 7, 11 and 15.

Puhl discloses a secure wireless electronic-commerce system that may maintain digital product certificates and digital license certificates for content items (Column 1, lines 34-41). A Public Key Certificate which allows a device to communicate with the system of Puhl is created at the factory (Column 4, lines 54-65). Once a device is able to communicate with the system, the Certificate Authority can maintain additional digital product certificates and digital license certificates. However, Puhl does not disclose a process of issuing a digital certificate to a new device when the new device is connected to a managing device in the network as claimed. Specifically, Puhl fails to disclose a control section that "creates the digital certificate for the new data sending/receiving device by using a device identifier specific to the new data sending/receiving device, the device identifier being received via the second communication section from the new data sending/receiving device through the wired connection means" (claim 1). Similarly, Puhl fails to disclose or suggest similar features of claims 4, 7, 11 and 15.

Puhl does not remedy the noted deficiencies of Balfanz. Therefore, the asserted combination of Balfanz and Puhl (assuming these references may be combined, which Applicants do not concede) fails to establish *prima facie* obviousness of any pending claim.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, claims 1, 4, 7, 11 and 15 are clearly distinguishable over Balfanz et al. in view of Puhl. Applicants submit that claims 2-3, 5-6, 8-10 and 12-14 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on claims 1, 4, 7 and 11. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.
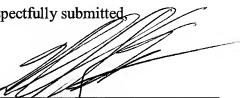
III. Conclusion

All matters having been addressed in view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the immediate allowance of all pending claims.

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Applicants' undersigned representative remains ready to assist the Examiner in any way to facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this matter. If any point remains an issue in which the Examiner feels would be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account No. 02-2448. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any overpayments to the above-referenced deposit account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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